

WELCOME

This is the first in a series of hopefully weekly free updates, bringing you the latest news from the Church of Scotland and related organisations. We hope it will be a useful resource to help people keep in touch with events in their Church during the Coronavirus Covid-19 lockdown. Please feel free to download and share, both electronically and in hard copy (safely!) to people who don't have internet access. Contact us if you have a story we should know about, by email at magazine@lifeandwork.org or through Facebook or Twitter, @cofslifeandwork

Commission of Assembly and Installation of new Moderator

The Rev Dr Martin Fair will be installed as the next Moderator of the General Assembly on Saturday May 16. The ceremony at the Assembly Hall, on what should have been the first day of this year's General Assembly, will be attended by only a handful of people (who will observe social distancing) and will be broadcast online.

On the same day, if needed, a 'virtual' Commission of Assembly will be held to discuss business that is considered uncontroversial but too urgent to wait until next year. This includes three Presbytery mergers, creating new Presbyteries of Fife, the Clyde, and Aberdeen and Shetland. For more information visit www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Christian Aid and Tearfund Appeals

A 'vibrant, virtual' Christian Aid Week is being planned for May 10-16. For ideas for online fundraising, visit www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week

Tearfund has also launched an appeal for help during the Covid-19 crisis: visit www.tearfund.org/covidinfo

Reflections at the Quay Success

BBC Scotland has described the reaction to its Sunday morning services, Reflections at the Quay, as 'very positive'. More than a quarter of a million people watched during

Moderator's Stairs Challenge for CrossReach



The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Rev Colin Sinclair, and his wife Ruth, took part in the 2.6 challenge for CrossReach, the social care operator of the Church of Scotland. Mr Sinclair climbed 26 stairs at his manse 50 times, and Mrs Sinclair 26 times. More than £4000 has been raised. CrossReach has appealed for help to continue its services to Scotland's most vulnerable groups during the lockdown. Read more at www.crossreach.org.uk

the programme's first four weeks.

Parish News

- Elder Alan Harper is raising money for Richmond's Hope by walking at least 40 miles around his garden dressed as a gnome.
- Members of Pitlochry Church of Scotland are producing drawstring laundry bags for local NHS staff to put their uniforms in.
- St Cuthbert's Church in Edinburgh, with charity partner Steps to Hope, hosts 80 homeless guests every Sunday with a hot three-course 'grab and go' meal.
- Churches in Lanark have helped set up a telephone support helpline for elderly and vulnerable people in the area.
- RockSolid Dundee, a youth charity set up by Douglas and Mid Craigie Church, with the support of other city organisations, is distributing around 200 lunches per day.
- Bellshill Central Parish Church has invited local people to craft a sign of colourful hope and attach it to the church railings. The church is hoping the symbols will spread to

create 'a wash of colour down Main Street'.

Life and Work

We thank Life and Work promoters for everything they are doing at this time. To contact us, email admin@lifeandwork.org or call 0131 225 5722.

Resources

- Church of Scotland Weekly Worship, with sermon ideas, prayers and suggested hymns, is available throughout May and June on www.churchofscotland.org.uk
- The Church website also has a guide to the videoconferencing app Zoom.
- Sanctuaryfirst.org.uk has live Sunday worship, daily reflections and a 'virtual coffee morning'.
- For children, Fischy Music provides a weekly assembly on its YouTube channel and website, www.fischy.com
- The Boys' Brigade is running #BBathome, a weekly series of activities for each of its age groups. Visit www.boys-brigade.org.uk/bbathome